



Government of the District of Columbia

**DC Commission for Women**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 13, 2008**

**I. Call to order**

Reta J. Lewis called to order the regular meeting of the DC Commission for Women at 6:40 pm on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Room 1112 South.

**II. Attendees**

The following persons were present: Niambi Jarvis, Towan Isom, Lauren Meigs, Shari Miles-Cohen, Cynthia Harrison, Chrissie Juliano, Cherita Whiting, Jennifer Grayson, Stacey Long and Mioshi Moses.

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes approved.

**IV. Business**

**LOGO ART CONTEST**

- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Artwork Contest – The commission went into effect on September 22, 1978; therefore, it's our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Commission would like to push this artwork contest back to September, so that it does not get lost in all of the end-of-the-year activity.
- The logo for the office's anniversary will now be switched from 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, due to the official legislative birthdate of September 22, 1978. We would like to launch this logo earlier than the actual anniversary date. Possibly, we might launch the logo with the Sister 2 Sister free screenings that will take place in June.

**SUMMER COMMISSION MEETINGS**

- No formal Commission meetings will be held in July or August. Commissioners will talk further about this decision on June 10<sup>th</sup> during the next meeting, and discuss the legislation concerning the number of meetings that are mandatory per year. The Chair suggested that we look at adopting the 6 required meetings and use the alternate months as working sessions for the respective Committees.

**TRIPLE THREAT CONFERENCE**

- Triple Threat Conference – Jennifer Grayson – This was a public health conference with information about housing, substance abuse, and other city issues. There was a Commission table with new and improved

brochures, and attendees were interested in the educational and global roundtables. The Conference was hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association. Mary Kornak with the Department of Health has been the Commission's primary link with the organization.

### **SISTER 2 SISTERS HEALTH SCREENING**

- Sister 2 Sister will be conducting 500 free heart screenings to Medicare and Medicaid recipients in D.C. sometime during June. OWPI and the Commission for Women will be partnering with Sister 2 Sister, and, if possible, the Commission would like to unveil the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo at this point.

### **TANF BENEFITS**

- The Commission approved the signing of a letter from the Commission to Mayor Fenty. The letter states the Commission's approval of raising the amount of TANF benefits that a family of three receives from \$427 to \$490 a month. This is largely a ceremonial letter since the measure was voted on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **LOGO ART CONTEST**

- The Commission would like to host a reception for women in leadership in DC government toward the end of June. We hope to start a mentor program between upper-level and lower-level women. If you have any suggestions about facility or organizations that might be able to donate materials, please e-mail Towan.Isom@dc.gov.

### **WIC**

- There will be a Nutrition Advisory Council meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the WIC State Agency at 2100 Martin Luther King Drive.
- Niambi met with the WIC manager last year to express interest in learning more about how the Commission could support efforts to inform low-income women of their rights to use public assistance at farmer's markets and how to get fresh/whole foods into their children's diets.

### **SCREENING**

- "*A Powerful Noise*" – This documentary was successfully released this past week. There will be another screening in Silver Spring that they would like us to partner with them. Due to potential inter-jurisdictional issues, we asked if there could be another screening here in D.C. in September for the Commission's anniversary. Shari Miles-Cohen is scheduling a conference call with the Care office. Niambi met Scott Thigpen, one of the director's at the

### **COMMITTEES**

- **Economic Development**

- The Commission is developing an Economic Development committee in order to work towards closing the financial gaps that women of this city experience.
- Legislative
  - Updates will be given at next meeting. TANF letter will be sent to Mayor.
- Public Health & Safety
  - Cherita Whiting announced the Ward 4 Domestic Violence forum featuring Chief Cathy Lanier and Mildred Muhammad. The Commission will endorse the event and assist with outreach.
- International
  - Ruby Moy is stepping down from the Commission. Gina Paige joined the International Committee and has stepped in as Chair. Shari Miles-Cohen would like to Co-Chair the Committee.
- PR
  - No updates. Neither co-chair in attendance.
- General
  - Committees were encouraged to begin looking for volunteers to increase momentum and effectiveness of each committee. Volunteers should be committed members of the female empowerment community or city residents.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **JUNE 2008**

- Veterans Forum event (list date)
- Hold Your Head High (list date and event info)

## **V. Adjournment**

Reta Jo Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Tambra Stevenson; Minutes approved by: DCFW